DC
BABYLON 5
8
BASED ON THE GROUND-BREAKING WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES
207
OBI
DEHAAS
RIDGWAY
DIRECT SALES
SHADOWS
PAST AND PRESENT
CONCLUSION!

WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO CIVILIZATION, GARIBALDI. LET'S HOPE IT'S FRIENDLY.
SURE, KEFFER. WE WENT ON AN EVALUATION/FIRST CONTACT MISSION TO FOLLOW AMBASSADOR MOLLARI. GOT ATTACKED BY A WEIRD FIGHTER SHIP. CRASHLANDED ON THIS GODFORSAKEN PLANET...
...WITH NO WAY TO CONTACT BABYLON 5! THEN WE ALMOST GET KILLED BY TELEPATHIC ALIENS...
...HEY, WHY SHOULDN'T IT BE FRIENDLY?
CAN THE SARCASM, GARIBALDI. I GET THE PICTURE.
SO YOU'RE THE MAP SAID THIS PLANET IS CENTAURI-CONTROLLED? YOU'D BETTER HOPE LONDO DOESN'T HAVE FRIENDS HERE IN HIGH PLACES.
YOU SAID OUR CRASH REMINDED YOU OF WHAT HAPPENED WITH SINCLAIR ON MARS WHEN YOU TWO FIRST MET, YEARS AGO?
YEAH. CRASHED SHIP. NO ONE KNEW OUR LOCATION—OR SITUATION. YOU AND ME. HERE...
"...IS A LOT LIKE SINCLAIR AND ME, STRANDED ON MARS
"SAME AS NOW. I KNEW SOMETHING OR SOMEONE HAD CAUSED OUR SHUTTLE CRASH
"I COULDN'T PROVE IT TO SINCLAIR BUT WE WERE LOW ON AIR, AND OUR COMS HAD STOPPED WORKING, SO THE ARGUING HAD TO WAIT.
"IN THE MEANTIME, SOMETHING—CALL IT A HUNCH—LED ME THIS WAY.
"MAYBE IT WAS EVEN THE SAME SOMETHING I SUSPECTED WAS JAMMING OUR COMS AS WE GOT CLOSER, CUTTING US OFF FROM TALKING TO EACH OTHER OR LIEUTENANT BANCHEZ....
"ASSUMING SHE WAS STILL ALIVE BACK IN THE SHUTTLE."

BABYLON 5 is published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BABYLON 5, DC Comics Subscriptions, PO Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $30.00 (Canada subscriptions must add $9.00 for postage and GST 7.00 #R125921285). All foreign subscriptions must add $24.00 for postage. Publication of Warner Bros. DC Comics Authorized User. The stories, characters and incidents contained in this magazine are entirely fictional. For advertising/subscription inquiries contact Turnkey at (212) 636-5400. Printed on recycled paper.
Printed in Canada
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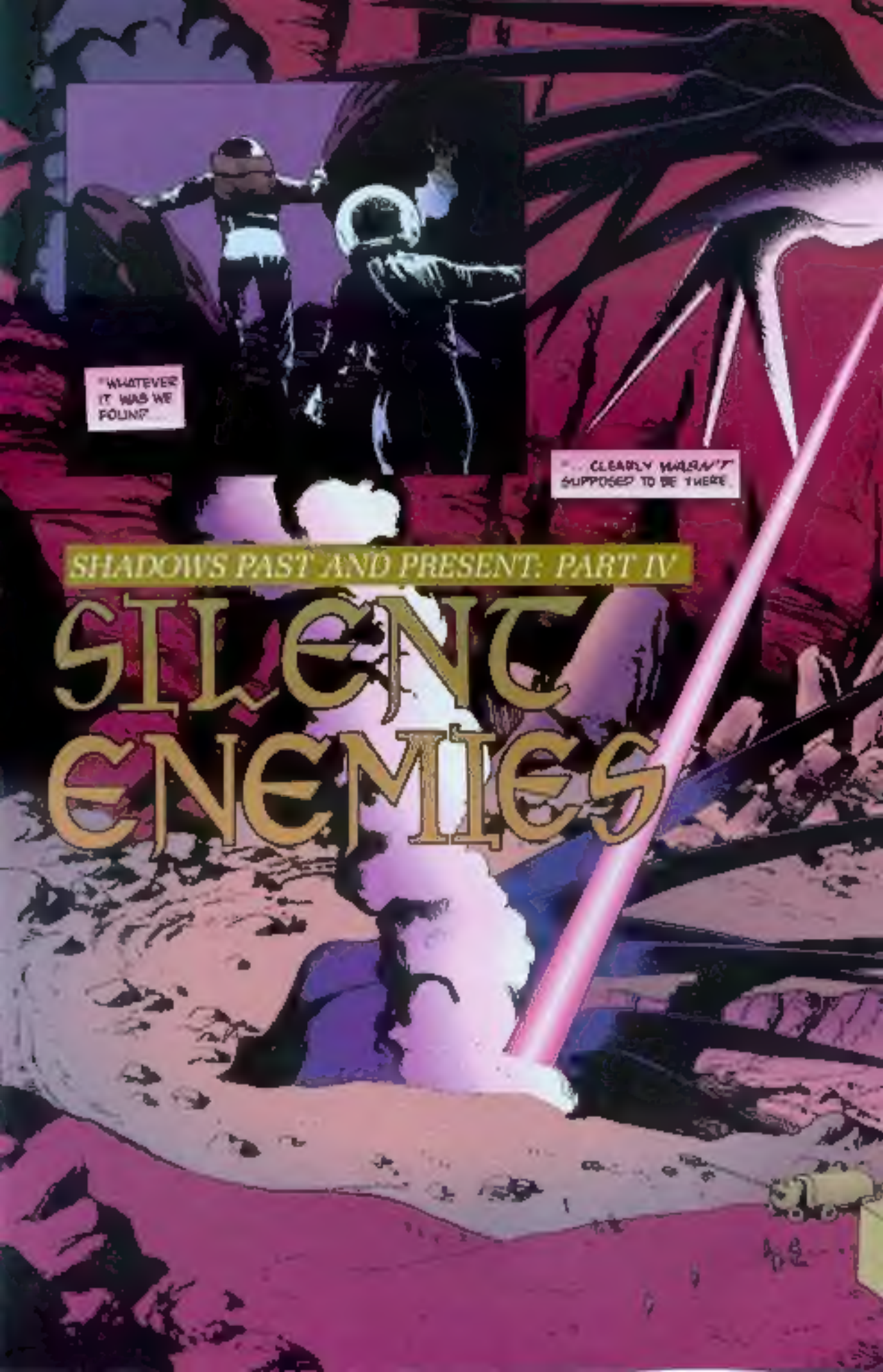
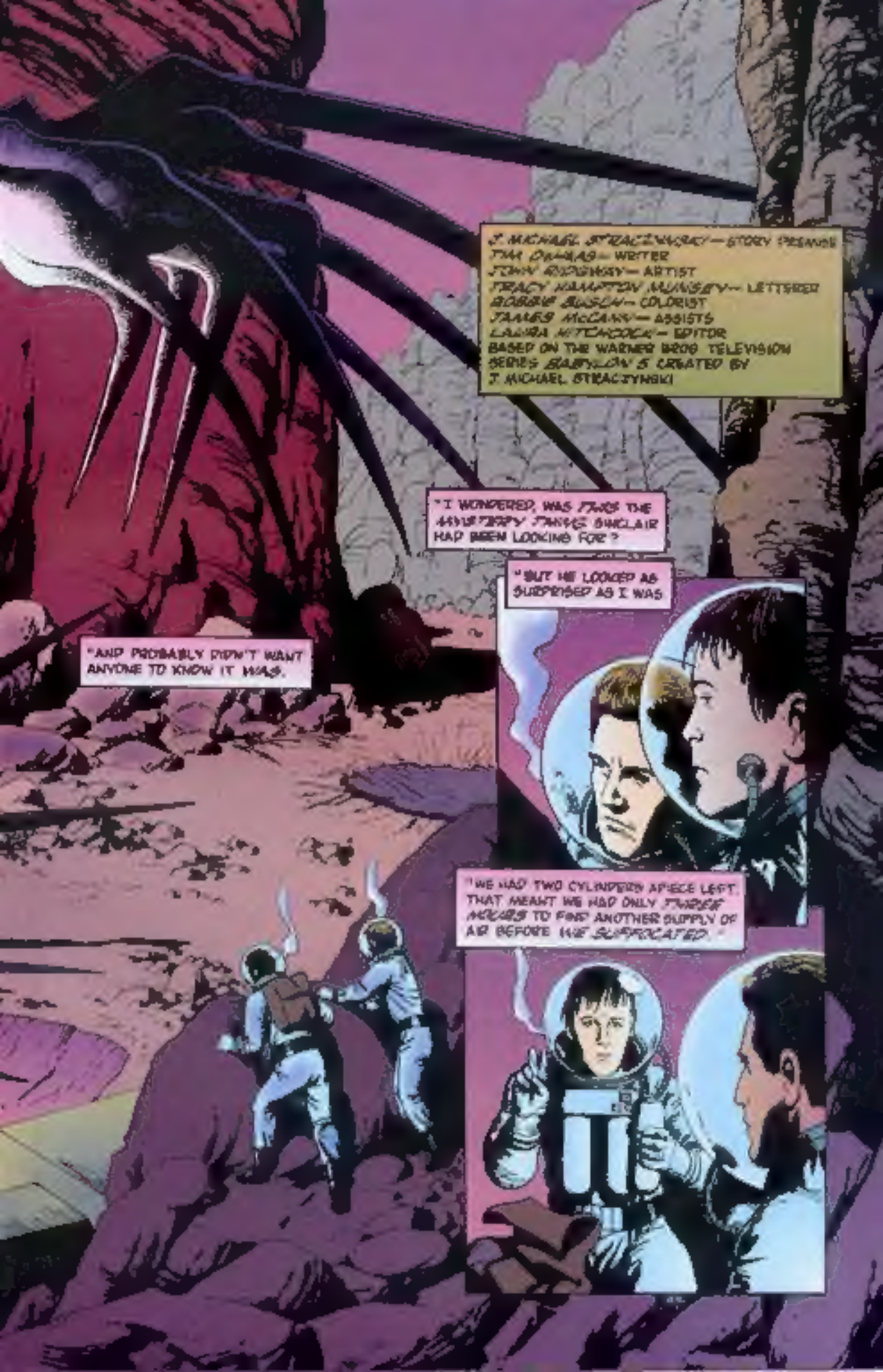

"WHATEVER IT WAS WE FOUND"
"...CLEARLY WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THERE."
SHADOWS PAST AND PRESENT: PART IV
SILENT ENEMIES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TIM DANIAS — WRITER
JOHN ROSENWAY — ARTIST
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JAMES McCANN — ASSISTS
LAURA NITCHCOCK — EDITOR
BASED ON THE WARNER BROS TELEVISION SERIES BABYLON 5 CREATED BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI
"I WONDERED, WAS THIS THE MYSTERY JASON SINCLAIR HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR?
"BUT HE LOOKED AS SURPRISED AS I WAS
"AND PROBABLY DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW IT WAS.
"WE HAD TWO CYLINDERS APIECE LEFT. THAT MEANT WE HAD ONLY THREE HOURS TO FIND ANOTHER SUPPLY OF AIR BEFORE WE SUFFOCATED."

"I'D NEVER SEEN SHIPS LIKE THAT BEFORE I HAD NO IDEA WHO THEY BELONGED TO.
"AND NO IDEA IF SINCLAIR KNEW...
"... BUT I WAS ABOUT TO FIND OUT.
"THE ENEMY I FEAR MOST IS THE ENEMY I DON'T KNOW.
"HE OR SHE—OR IT—CAN GET YOU ANYWHERE, ANY TIME.
"NO RULES. NO MERCY.
207
207
"SINCLAIR DIDN'T RUSH UP TO GREET THE NEW ARRIVALS, SO I ASSUMED HE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THEM, EITHER.
"UP UNTIL NOW, I DIDN'T KNOW ALL THAT MUCH ABOUT SINCLAIR.
"THAT WAS CHANGING, THOUGH."

ZZZT!
"I'VE ALWAYS GONE WITH MY GUT INSTINCT" KIND OF A SURVIVAL THING.
"OUR COMS WERE BEING JAMMED, WHICH, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, MEANT ALL COMMUNICATIONS WERE JAMMED.
"THAT MEANT THE OTHER GUYS HAD TO USE AN ALTERNATIVE WAY TO COMMUNICATE..."

"AND THE POSSIBILITIES MADE MY SKIN CRAWL."
207
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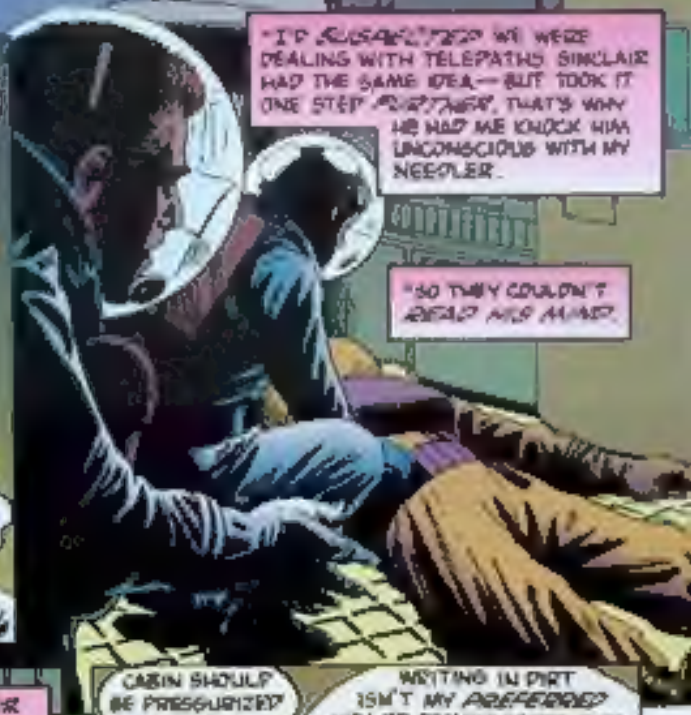
207
ZZ
ZZZZZZ

LOOK-DADDY, SLEEPING BEAUTY
GROGH!!!


"I'D SUSPECTED WE WERE DEALING WITH TELEPATHS. SINCLAIR HAD THE SAME IDEA—BUT TOOK IT ONE STEP FURTHER. THAT'S WHY HE HAD ME KNOCK HIM UNCONSCIOUS WITH MY NEEDLER.
"SO THEY COULDN'T READ HIS MIND.

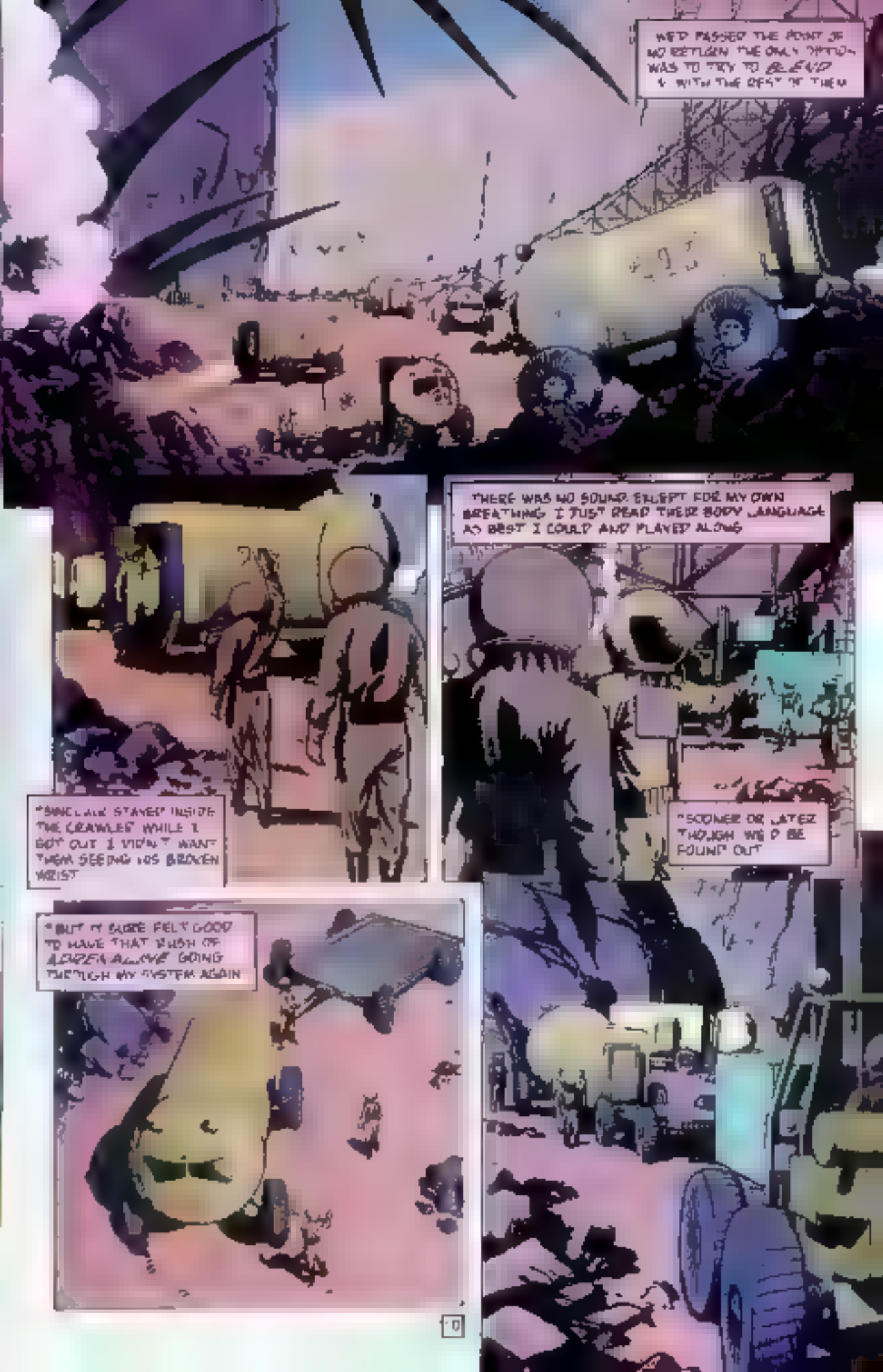
"WHEN WE SAW THEIR HELMETS HAD NO CORDS, I KNEW HE WAS RIGHT—
"THAT MADE WHAT HE TOLD ME NEXT, ABOUT HIS MISSION, EVEN MORE SCARY."

CABIN SHOULD BE PRESSURIZED BY NOW.
WRITING IN PART ISN'T MY PREFERRED WAY TO COMMUNICATE, BUT I WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU BACK THERE THAT I THINK THESE GUYS ARE CONDUCTING COVERT NON-ALIEN ACTIVITIES.
AND THEY ONLY SENT YOU AND TWO GRUNTS TO INVESTIGATE?

THAT'S IT. TWO OTHER MISSIONS WERE SENT OUT BEFORE US. ALL WE FOUND WAS THE TIP OF ONE HUMAN EAR—NOTHING ELSE.
SOUNDS LIKE EARTHFORCE CONSIDERS YOU EXPENDABLE.
I BYPASSED NORMAL PROTOCOL AND WENT WITH YOUR INDEPENDENTLY-RUN SHUTTLE SERVICE.
RIGHT NOW, GARIBALDI, YOU MAY BE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TRUST.

HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DRUNK WHO ALMOST GOT ME KILLED THREE TIMES IN THE LAST TWO DAYS?
WELL, THE D.T.'S HAVE HIM FEELING A LITTLE EDGY RIGHT NOW, SO LET'S NOT TRY FOR FOUR.

"ONCE WE HAD TRANSPORTATION, THE PLAN WAS SIMPLE: RUN FOR IT.
"UNFORTUNATELY, THAT KIND OF PLAN ONLY WORKS WHEN NOBODY IS AROUND TO SEE YOU RUN.
"SO, WE SWITCHED TO PLAN B. PLAY ALONG UNTIL WE COULD ESCAPE.
"WHEN OUR GUIDE WASN'T LOOKING, WE PUMPED OUR PRISONERS OUT OF THE CRAWLER AND HOPED NO ONE WOULD FIND THEM—AT LEAST, NOT ANYTIME SOON.
"I WANTED A DRINK. REAL BAD.
"IT WAS EITHER THAT, OR I HAD TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.
"I KEPT THINKING ABOUT THOSE BODIES. THEY SURE *LOOKED* HUMAN.
"SINCLAIR AND I BOTH HAD THE SAME IDEA ABOUT WHO THEY WERE.
"BUT NEITHER OF US WANTED TO SAY IT ALOUD."


WE'D PASSED THE POINT OF NO RETURN. THE ONLY OPTION WAS TO TRY TO BLEND IN WITH THE REST OF THEM
THERE WAS NO SOUND EXCEPT FOR MY OWN BREATHING. I JUST READ THEIR BODY LANGUAGE AS BEST I COULD AND PLAYED ALONG
"SINCLAIR STAYED INSIDE THE CRAWLER WHILE I GOT OUT. I DIDN'T WANT THEM SEEING HIS BROKEN WRIST
"SOONER OR LATER THOUGH WE'D BE FOUND OUT
"BUT IT SURE FELT GOOD TO HAVE THAT RUSH OF ADRENALINE GOING THROUGH MY SYSTEM AGAIN
10

I FELT LIKE WE WERE LIVING THE STORY OF JONAH
SWALLOWED INTO THE BELLY OF THE WHALE
HIS BEAST HAD TOO MANY BELLIES FOR MY TASTE THOUGH

I SAW I [illegible]
DARKNESS CLOSING IN

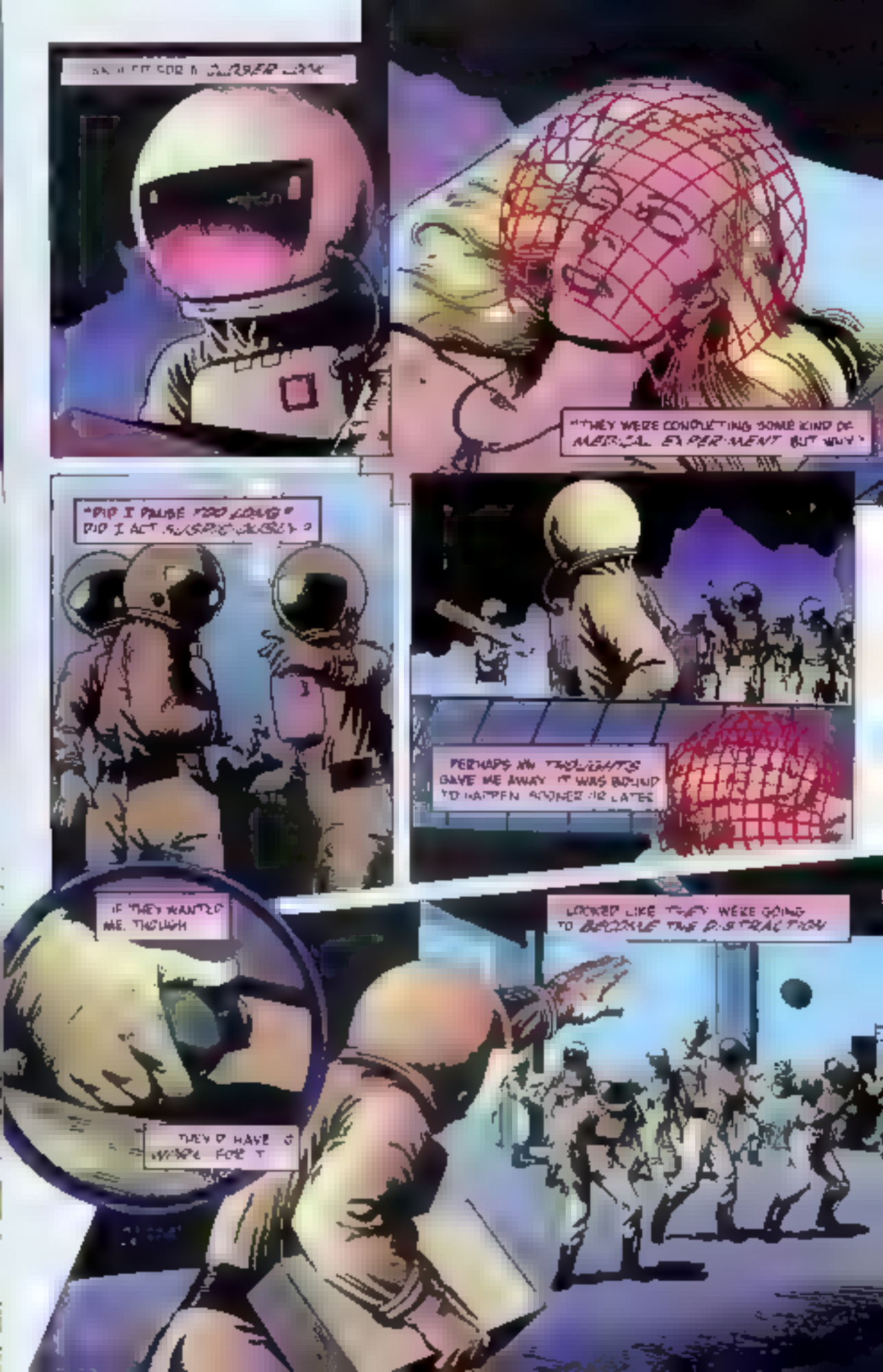
MY HEAD WAS SWIMMING AND SUDDENLY I WAS FALLING BACK INTO THE ABYSS OF SELF PITY

I WANTED TO GIVE UP RIGHT THEN. THE SAFEST PLACE IN THE WORLD SEEMED TO BE AT THE BOTTOM OF A BOTTLE

EVEN IF IT MEANT BEING

...AS BAD AS YOU MAY BE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TRUST

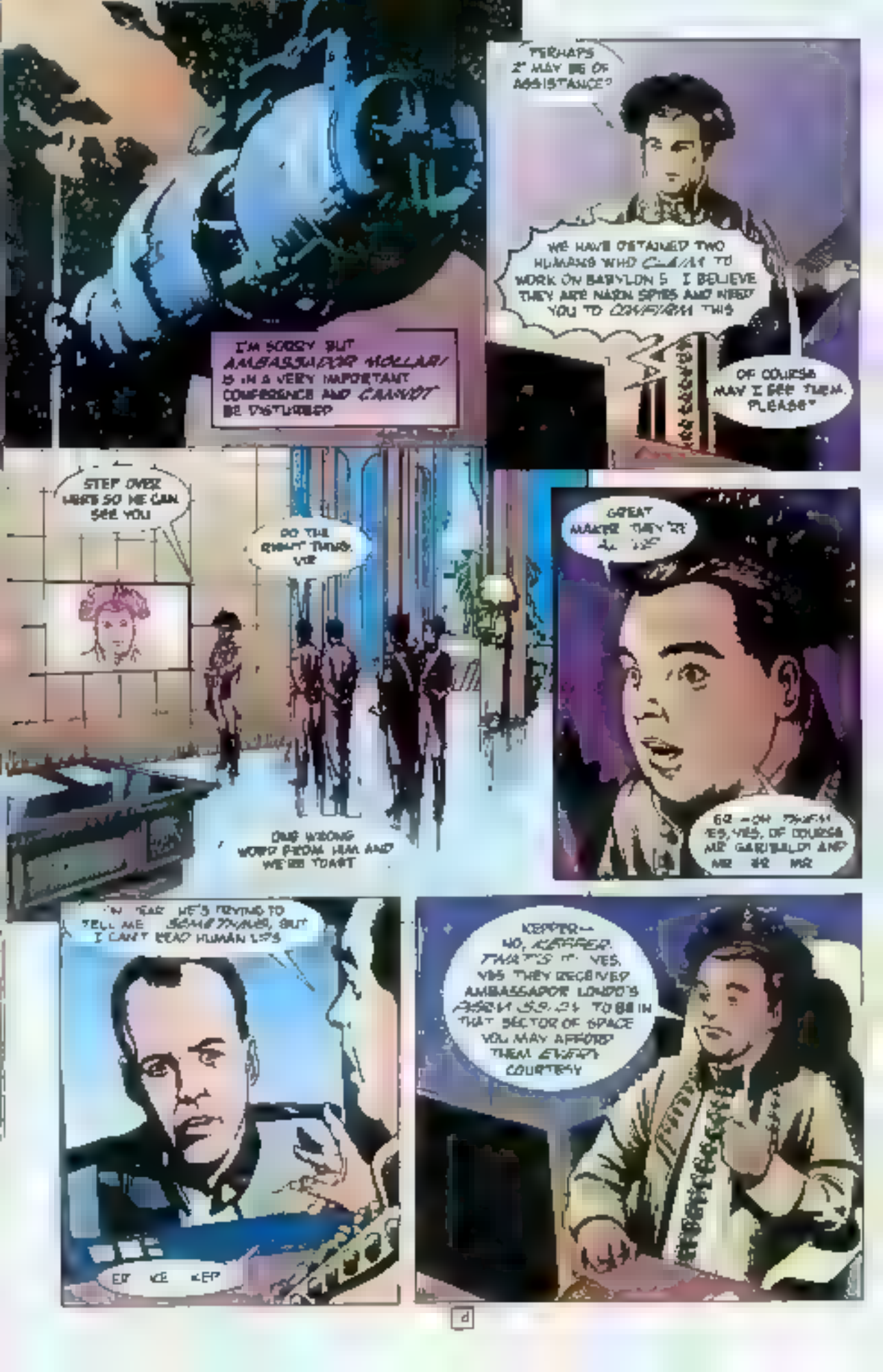
I HOT OUT TO UNLOAD THE BOXES I HAD SEEN SOMETHING I WANTED IN ONE OF THEM
THE WERE IN SO DEEP I KNEW IF WE WERE TO ESCAPE WE'D NEED A DIVERSION
A DIVERSION BIG ENOUGH TO BE SEEN BY ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE LOOKING FOR US
DESPITE THE DANGER IT WAS HARD NOT TO NOTICE THE STRANGENESS ALL AROUND ME
AND THE MORE I SAW THE MORE ANSWERS I WANTED


"THEY WERE CONDUCTING SOME KIND OF MEDICAL EXPERIMENT BUT WHY?"
"DID I PAUSE TOO LONG?" DID I ACT SUSPICIOUSLY?
PERHAPS MY TWILIGHTS GAVE ME AWAY. IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER.
IF THEY WANTED ME, THOUGH
LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE GOING TO BROOKLYN THE DISTRACTION
THEY'D HAVE TO WAIT FOR IT

CRRAZ
BOOOM
"DIDN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE GOT HURT IN THAT EXPLOSION. BUT NOW I WAS PLAYING FOR KEEPS
"I FELT THEIR HANDS WRAPPING AROUND MY OWN [illegible]ING ME TO GIVE UP THE GRENADES
207
CRACK
AH, NUMBER 207— MY LUCKY NUMBER HAD ARRIVED

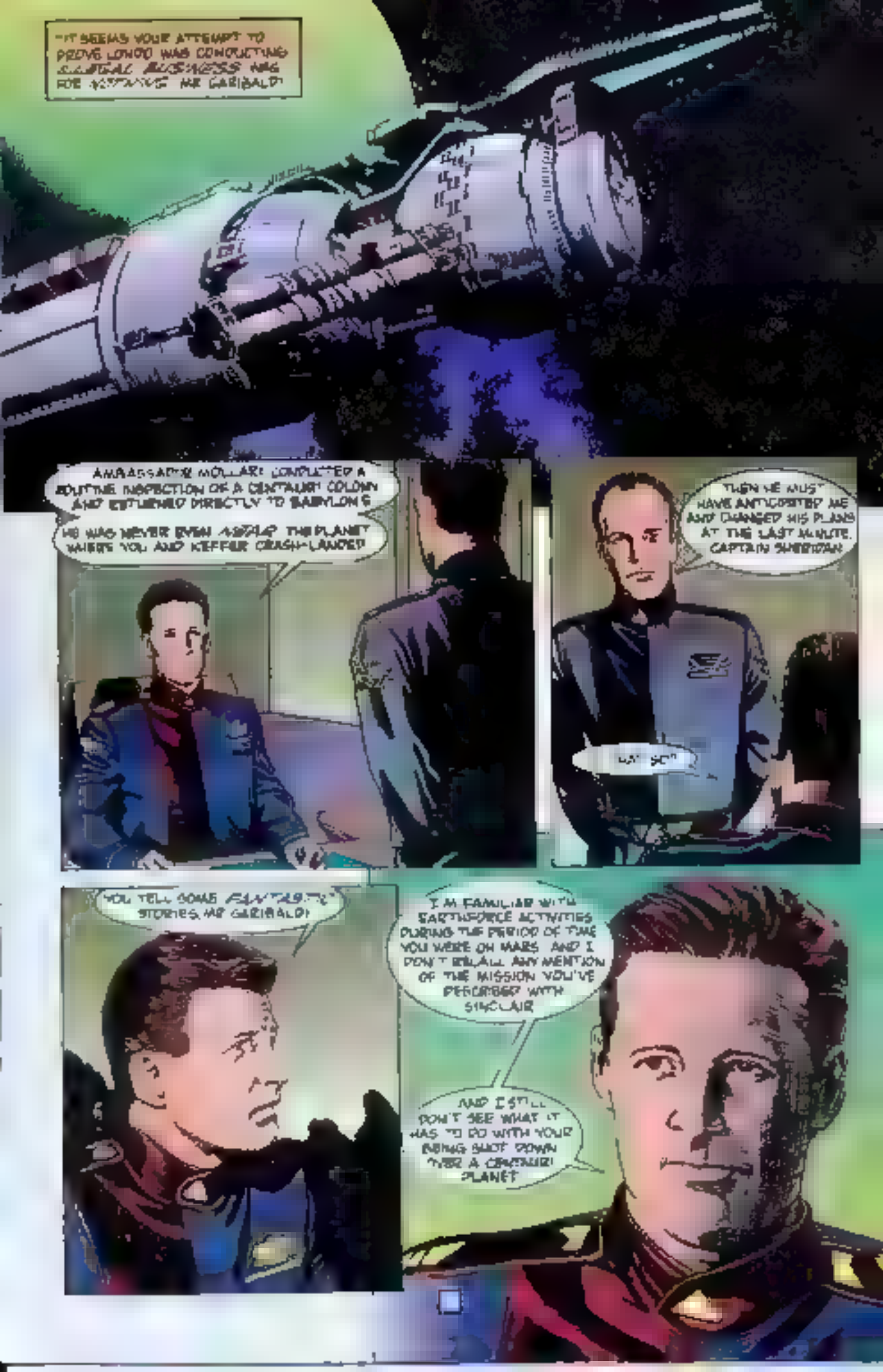
KLAK
KLAK
KA
MO
NOBODY FOLLOWED FOR LONG -- WE MADE A CLEAN GETAWAY
I GUESS WHATEVER WAS INSIDE THAT BUBBLE THEY WRAPPED IT SAVED BADLY
IF THERE STILL WAS ANYTHING TO SAVE
YEAH? SO WHERE WHAT GARIBALDI?
WENT BACK FOR SANCHEZ I KEPT WATCHING FOR THE TELEPATHS, BUT THEY NEVER SHOWED UP.
DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND COME WITH US
LOOKS LIKE THIS TIME YOU AND I WON'T BE SO LUCKY

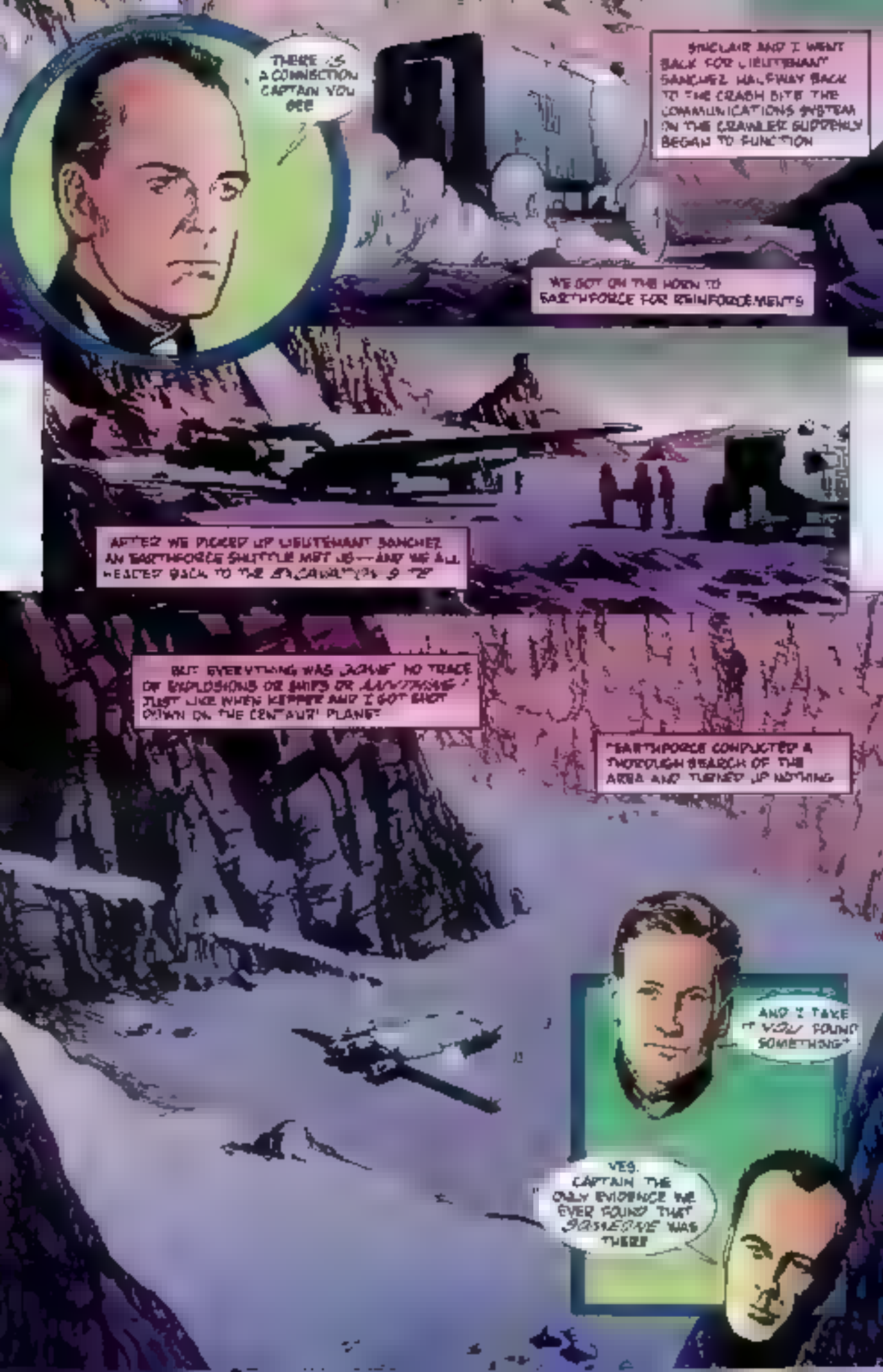
"THE PENALTY FOR SPYING IS EXECUTION MR KEEFER AND MR GARIBALDI."
LOOK, JUST CALL THE STATION CALL BABYLON 5 AND SPEAK TO CAPTAIN SHERIDAN HE'LL CORROBORATE OUR STORY.
YEAH, RIGHT KEEFER THEN HE CAN EXECUTE US HIMSELF FOR GOING ON AN UNAUTHORIZED MISSION
WE'VE JUST COMPLETED AN INVESTIGATION OF YOUR CLAIMS THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT A SHIP CRASHED AT THE SITE YOU DESCRIBED
QUIET
SHUT UP
NEITHER DID WE SEE SIGNS OF A FIGHT IN THE CLEARING YOU MENTIONED AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T EXPLAINED WHY YOU WERE HERE ON THIS PLANET IN THE FIRST PLACE
WAS BABYLON 5 AMBASSADOR LONDO MOLLARI IS STATIONED THERE IS HE NOT?
AMBASSADOR MOLLARI THE GREAT MAN WHO RECOVERED QUADRANT 37 FOR US FROM THE NARN
QUADRANT 37? SO LONDO IS INVOLVED
OH, HE MIGHT BE THERE
WILL CONTACT AMBASSADOR AND SEE AND CONFIRM YOUR STORY IN THE A.M.
THAT'S IT WE'RE DEAD
IF HE CONFIRMS IT I WILL RELEASE YOU TO HIS CUSTODY
IF NOT YOU WILL BE EXECUTED


I'M SORRY BUT AMBASSADOR MOLLARI IS IN A VERY IMPORTANT CONFERENCE AND CANNOT BE DISTURBED
PERHAPS I MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE?
WE HAVE DETAINED TWO HUMANS WHO CLAIM TO WORK ON BABYLON 5. I BELIEVE THEY ARE NARN SPIES AND NEED YOU TO CONFIRM THIS
OF COURSE MAY I SEE THEM, PLEASE?
STEP OVER HERE SO WE CAN SEE YOU
DO THE RIGHT THING, VIR
ONE WRONG WORD FROM HIM AND WE'RE TOAST
GREAT MAKER THEY'RE ALL HERE
OH—OH THANK YES, YES, OF COURSE MR GARIBALDI AND MR SO MR
I'M SURE HE'S TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING, BUT I CAN'T READ HUMAN LIPS
EF VE KEP
KEPPER— NO, KEFFREP. THAT'S IT. YES, YES THEY RECEIVED AMBASSADOR LONDO'S ESCORT SHIP TO BE IN THAT SECTOR OF SPACE YOU MAY AFFORD THEM EVERY COURTESY

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR THIS CONFIRMATION FROM THE AMBASSADOR HIMSELF
AMBASSADOR MOLLAR. IS VERY BUSY. I ASSURE YOU—
VIR PLEASE
THIS CHITTER-CHATTER IS GETTING ON MY NERVES. WHAT IS— MR GARIBALDI?
AMBASSADOR MAYOR LINDOW WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONFIRM THAT MR GARIBALDI AND MR KEFFER WERE IN CENTAURI SPACE AT YOUR BEHEST
AND IF YOU CAN NOT CONFIRM THIS, HE WILL EXECUTE THEM.
THEIR LIVES ARE IN YOUR HANDS AMBASSADOR.
MR GARIBALDI ALWAYS UP TO YOUR NECK IN TROUBLE, AREN'T YOU, MY FRIEND?
THANK YOU FOR MAKING THAT PERFECTLY CLEAR VIR
LIFE WOULDN'T BE INTERESTING IF I WASN'T LATE!

YES, MAYOR LINDSAY I GAVE MY FRIEND MR GARIBALDI AND HIS ASSOCIATE PERMISSION TO PASS THROUGH THAT SECTOR OF SPACE
PLEASE FORGIVE MY INCOMPETENT ASSISTANT FOR FORGETTING TO NOTIFY YOU I ASSURE YOU, IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN
I APPRECIATE THAT AMBASSADOR WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DO WITH THEM?
I WILL TRANSFER YOU TO COMMANDER NANOVA SHE WILL MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO BUYING YOU A DRINK SOON MR GARIBALDI
PLEASE MAKE CERTAIN I AM NOT DISTURBED AGAIN VIR
YES AMBASSADOR
IS THERE A PROBLEM AMBASSADOR?
JUST A MINOR QUIBBLE MR MORDEN NOTHING AT ALL REALLY
VERY GOOD SHALL WE CONTINUE THEN?


"IT SEEMS YOUR ATTEMPT TO PROVE LONDO WAS CONDUCTING CLANDESTINE BUSINESS WAS FOR NOTHING, MR GARIBALDI!
AMBASSADOR MOLLARI COMPLETED A ROUTINE INSPECTION OF A CENTAURI COLONY AND RETURNED DIRECTLY TO BABYLON 5
HE WAS NEVER EVEN NEAR THE PLANET WHERE YOU AND KEFFER CRASH-LANDED!
THEN HE MUST HAVE ANTICIPATED ME AND CHANGED HIS PLANS AT THE LAST MINUTE, CAPTAIN SHERIDAN!
YOU TELL SOME FANTASTIC STORIES, MR GARIBALDI!
I AM FAMILIAR WITH EARTHFORCE ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD OF TIME YOU WERE ON MARS AND I DON'T RECALL ANY MENTION OF THE MISSION YOU'VE DESCRIBED WITH SINCLAIR
AND I STILL DON'T SEE WHAT IT HAS TO DO WITH YOUR BEING SHOT DOWN OVER A CENTAURI PLANET


THERE IS A CONNECTION CAPTAIN YOU SEE
SINCLAIR AND I WENT BACK FOR LIEUTENANT SANCHEZ HALFWAY BACK TO THE CRASH SITE THE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE CRAWLER SUDDENLY BEGAN TO FUNCTION
WE GOT ON THE HORN TO EARTHFORCE FOR REINFORCEMENTS
AFTER WE PICKED UP LIEUTENANT SANCHEZ AN EARTHFORCE SHUTTLE MET US — AND WE ALL HEADED BACK TO THE ENCAMPMENT
BUT EVERYTHING WAS GONE! NO TRACE OF EXPLOSIONS OR SHIPS OR ANYTHING! JUST LIKE WHEN KEPPER AND I GOT SHOT DOWN ON THE CENTAURI PLANET
EARTHFORCE CONDUCTED A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE AREA AND TURNED UP NOTHING
AND I TAKE IT YOU FOUND SOMETHING?
YES, CAPTAIN. THE ONLY EVIDENCE WE EVER FOUND THAT SOMETHING WAS THERE

DID YOU TELL ANYONE?
WITHOUT MORE EVIDENCE, WHO'D BELIEVE US? SINCLAIR AND I AGREED TO KEEP IT TO OURSELVES.
THE ALIEN SHIP WE SAW ON MARS LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE SHIP KEFFER SAW IN HYPERSPACE WHEN HE HELPED RESCUE THE CORTEZ.
BUT, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...
SOMETHING'S OUT THERE, CAPTAIN. SOMETHING BIG AND DANGEROUS. AND IT DOESN'T WANT US TO KNOW IT'S OUT THERE.
AND LONDO'S INVOLVED. I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I INTEND TO FIND OUT.
YOU HAVE NO PROOF...
WELL, NO...
THEN KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, MR. GARIBALDI. FOR APPEARANCES, A REPRIMAND WILL APPEAR ON YOURS AND LIEUTENANT KEFFER'S RECORDS REGARDING YOUR UNAUTHORIZED MISSION...
I TOLD KEFFER AND I'M TELLING YOU—WATCH YOUR BACK. I BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU'VE TOLD ME, BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO AT THIS POINT.
...BUT IF YOU TRY ANYTHING LIKE THIS AGAIN, I'LL KICK YOU OFF THIS STATION BEFORE YOU CAN BLINK TWICE. GOT IT?
YES, SIR.
AND ONE MORE THING...
WHEN THE TIME TO TAKE ACTION COMES...
...I WANT YOU THERE WITH ME.
DISMISSED.

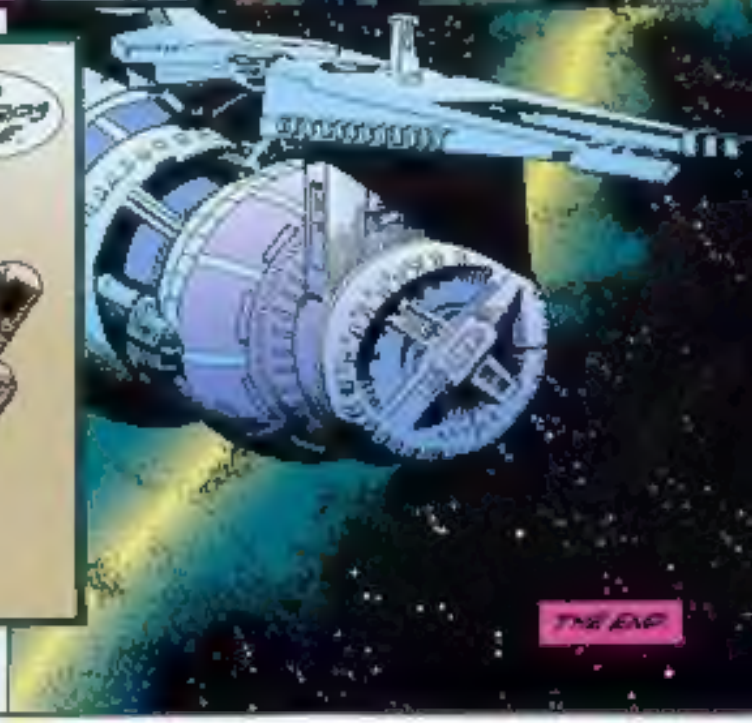
SO. HOW'D IT GO?
STILL IN ONE PIECE. STILL EMPLOYED.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, GARIBALDI? IS IT POSSIBLE ANYONE SURVIVED THOSE EXPLOSIONS ON MARS?
I DON'T KNOW...

"HARD TO SEE HOW ANYONE COULD HAVE SURVIVED."
WRITERS

DID YOU SHOW CAPTAIN SHERIDAN WHAT YOU FOUND ON MARS?
YUP. AND ONE OF THESE DAYS, KEFFER, WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT WHO OWNS...

THIS PSI-CORPS BADGE.


THE END

B A B C O M

"It was the dawn of the third age of mankind, . . ten years after the Earth-Minbari war. The Babylon Project was a dream given form. Its goal: to prevent another war, by creating a place where humans and aliens could work out their differences peacefully. It's a port of call, home away from home, for diplomats, hustlers, entrepreneurs, and wanderers. Humans and aliens, wrapped in two million, five hundred thousand tons of spinning metal . . . all alone in the night. It can be a dangerous place, but it's our last, best hope for peace. This is the story of the last of the Babylon stations. The year is 2259. The name of the place is . . . **BABYLON 5**."

Dear Laura and Jim:

BABYLON 5 #5 ["With Friends Like These..."]: sure, I could go on at length about Tim DeHaas's story, the smiles at his excellent grasp of Londo and G'Kar and their rivalry, my satisfaction at his ability with so many of the rest of the ensemble and a well-written story (most important of all!), and my pleasant surprise that Joe [Straczynski] let someone else play with his Shadowmen. Others enjoy expressing themselves that way, and they do it better than I. My only critical comment on the story would be that I hope it isn't going to be just a escape/survival tale, because Garibaldi and Keffer obviously will survive, so there's no suspense in that.

John Ridgway has been a favorite artist of mine for a few years now, so I wasn't all that surprised to find his art a big improvement over Michael Netzer's and Carlos Garzon's. John made a much better attempt at capturing the look, feel, and details of B5. I'd welcome John's return for another story arc. Also, Scott Hampton did an excellent cover! I wish he would stay on as permanent cover artist.

Why the price hike and slick paper? Unless DC will upgrade to full process computer color (which, considering the major source of B5's effects, would be quite appropriate), this price and format change are an undeserved and unfair picking of the fans' pockets.

Suggestions (as if I haven't already given you enough big, bad guy names): Joe has mentioned on the Net that John Ostrander, Peter David, Bill Mumy, and Neil Gaiman might write upcoming arcs. I hope so, too, but some of my dream writer/artist teams would be: John Byrne writing and inking, with Curt Swan penciling (Psi-Corps/political intrigues at Earth Dome, maybe?); Archie Goodwin and Al Williamson (possibly Starfuries against new Raiders with exotic technology); John Arcudi and Rob McLeod (maybe some of Catherine Sakai's space surveys were hardly routine?); and Walt Simonson and Gil Kane (an undercover walk on the wild side among the non-aligned worlds?).

I'm hopin' and a-prayin'... but I'm not holding my breath. But if you don't ask, you can't receive, so please give those talents a call, Pub-lease!

Babylon on,

SCOTT TILSON
123 VISTA DRIVE
MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO L5M 1W2

Hey, you never know. Peter David, Bill Mumy (who also plays Lennier on the TV show), and John Ostrander all have been scheduled as various yet-to-be-scheduled comic book plots. So don't hold your breath (gets uncomfortable after awhile, hm?), but do keep a lookout at your comic book store.

BABYLON 5:

I just finished the latest issue of B5 (#5) and it is much better than the previous stuff. This new artist has a better grasp of how to portray the characters, and the writing is great.

My only concern is continuity. If Garibaldi is being chased by the bugs as early on this is supposed to take place, why doesn't he recognize them now on the show? Otherwise a great issue. I hope this new team has a LONG arc.

Mangleworld@aol.com

Guess by now you've realized the answer — Garibaldi's had to keep his entire Mars experience a secret (till now).

John Ridgway and Tim DeHaas will be taking brief hiatuses after this issue, but we promise to bring them both back, separately and together.

Dear Laura:

Tim DeHaas rules! He is The Rules. He [illegible]. Okay, okay, sorry. Too much caffeine. But Tim is great (I loved the episode he did for Star Trec: Voyager — creepy!). It's interesting to see someone so involved in the SF multiverse write a comic book.

You have noted in your column that B5 is to be a series of story arcs with "rotating creative teams" — what other DC names in the industry can we look forward to?

JOHN ERICKSEN
ONTARIO, CANADA

PS. Didn't mean to leave out Ridgway. He also rules.

Even more big names? Glad you asked! Next month, Famed Nebula-winning SF writer David Gerrold starts on a two-parter. After that, another quickie by Tim DeHaas, and then a four-issue arc by B5 creator J. Michael Straczynski himself, with art by returning artist (and also-Rider) John Ridgway.

Ms. Hitchcock:

Congratulations on the conclusion of your first story arc [issue #4, "The Price of Peace"]. What can I say, I am impressed. You have pulled off a pretty good first attempt at bringing a television series to the print medium.

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However, as with many other "Bob-Notes," I tend to pick nits rather than give credit where credit is due. Remember, we do this because we (like you, I'm sure) love BABYLON 5 and want this to be the best possible comic you can give readers. (Sorry if I dwell too much on the "little mistakes.")

Mr. Marotti: Great having the Psi-Corps setting up the Homeguard. I honestly thought it would be Bester trying to take a parting shot at Sinclair after the events of "Mind War" and would tie into the assassination of the President.

Unfortunately, a continuity error cropped up when Delenn, Neroon, and the Judiciaries discuss the human/Minbari souls issue. Neroon did not know the answer until he replaced Delenn on the Grey Council ([TV episode:] "All Alone in the Night"). For that matter, only the Grey Council should know about this.

Mr. Netzer: Great improvement since issue one (or two, for that matter). You are a talented man but have a problem with little details. Garibaldi and Sheridan wear armor (which, by the way, looks nothing like the series' armor) and then it mysteriously disappears two pages later. Insignias are the biggest problem: some appear and disappear randomly, and sometimes, spontaneously change position on uniforms.

Mr. Busch: my pet peeve, what drives me bonkers is the fact that security uniforms are GREY, not BLUE. Without zooming hostile over such a little thing as the coloring of a comic book page, I must ask: have you seen the show? Please take more care in the future.

With many licensed projects, I feel creators believe they don't have to be careful, because they think fans may complain but they'll always keep buying. Please don't go in this direction. Babylon 5 is special from the people behind it to the finished product. The comic should follow this tradition and be a testament to the series, not just a siphon for cash flow.

Sorry if I seem too harsh, but you're doing a good job. I just think you're capable of a great one.

BRETT HARRIS
65 WOODSTOCK LANE
BRISTOL, VA

Regarding story: when Neroon spoke to the judges about human/Minbari souls, he still had no idea whether the connection was a fact — for him, it was just a rumor.

Regarding your other notes... BABYLON 5 is special — largely because the story is so detailed and dense. But what makes the series terrific also makes putting together a monthly comic tough, despite working closely with the talented TV people. So, we could quibble over all your points, but... hey. Around here, we'd rather just watch the show. Or work on making the comic better.

Dear Laura,

Just read ish #5. Wow! John Ridgway is a terrific artist! The shots of the Shadowships and alien landscapes remind me of the classic GALAXY covers in my collection.

It's satisfying to finally get backstory on Garibaldi and Sinclair. Quite frankly, I prefer Sinclair to Sheridan. I hope he continues to make appearances in future issues.

While I'm at it, I think the new glossy paper you're printing on complements the artwork — particularly the coloring in this series. Please keep it up. It's too bad Mike Netzer's story arc came out on that old paper. It would've looked terrific. Hope he gets a shot with this improved format.

How about a storyline focusing mostly on the alien characters? A story featuring Londo and G'Kar could be fun.

Anyway, keep up the great work. Can't wait to see what happens to Garibaldi and Kolker in #6.

JOHN LEVINSON
NEWARK, NJ

And by now, you know. Follow-up comments?

Dear Ms. Mackenzie:

I love BABYLON 5! I've just read issue #5 and can't wait to see what happens. Tim DeHaas is such a great writer (I love the flashback story within a story). And the artwork is terrific. I'm relatively new to comics, so I'm wondering if the works of DeHaas and Ridgway can be found elsewhere?

Also, since B5 is such an intense saga, are there plans to put it on a commercial edition? Any possibility of a comics adaptation of the complete television series?

LISA BELAIR
BROOKLYN, NY

Tim DeHaas's career seems to be on fast takeoff these days (as per the keen-eyed John Erickson, who spotted Tim's credit on STAR TREK: VOYAGER); we recommend you keep watching for writers' names at the beginning of TV shows.

As for Ridgway — John's well-known in the biz, having penciled and inked numerous comics for DC (including THE SPECTRE and HELLBLAZER). We were just lucky to discover how much he loved B5.

We've heard rumblings about collected editions of the comics, and collected TV shows, but nothing definite yet. If fans demanded, guess we could turn out a comic book adaptation of the show, but really, isn't it more fun to stare new ground?

Dear Laura:

Maybe I'm an enigma... I never really watched the [BABYLON 5] show. This is owing to work/school/total inability to program my VCR (it's a '92 Toshiba; any tips?). But I really love the comic book — in fact, with issue #5 (and the episode shown) "The Coming of Shadows" (page 2)) I had much more interest upon sitting down and watching the program.

It's known that reading would compliment TV in the role of an easy way to catch up on a subject (hey, how about DC Comics presents CLAY REGAZZONI). My concern is that I have already missed the first year (or more?) of programs — does Warner plan to eliminate them on video anytime soon?

ANNA MURPHY
MIDDLETOWN, CT

Like we said, rumors abound. To push your luck, you could harass your local video dealers — or better yet, aim a letter campaign at the show's producers, distributors, and whoever else seems a likely target.

NEXT UP: **DUET FOR HUMAN AND NARN IN C SHARP**

As agitated Ambassador G'Kar kidnaps Garibaldi — forcing Captain Sheridan to practice the new art of Narn negotiation. Writer David Gerrold spins a new tale, with Rebecca Guay and Nick Bryant on art, as we begin part one of "Lesser-Minor-Starweald!"

COVER ART FOR THIS ISSUE BY JOHN RIDGWAY.